

**"One of them fell to his knees and cried
when I showed him his new home..."**

Dear Neighbor,

David never planned on being homeless, but here he was, living on the streets of upper Northwest Washington.

Back in Chicago, he had been a successful businessman, a national spokesperson for an international cosmetics company. He moved to DC to help his ailing mother. Later, with no income and his mother gone, David spiraled downward in depression and alcohol.

Now, if he was lucky, he slept on the floor of a shelter. A shopping bag held all his belongings. Spare change from passers-by sustained him, but offered no long-term hope. A series of setbacks left this once proud man destitute. Ashamed to ask for help, his life was slipping away.

That all changed dramatically with the help of the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place (CCH/FP). Within months of our first contact with David, we got him set up in housing, arranged support services to deal with his mental illness, and even helped him secure part-time income. For the first time in over a decade, David had *hope*.

My name is Jean Michel Giraud, and since 2006 it's been my privilege to serve as the Executive Director of CCH/FP. We're not a shelter, or a "soup kitchen". And this isn't a handout.

What we *are* is a group of caring employees, volunteers and donors who provide hope to the homeless. Our house at 4713 Wisconsin Avenue is a beacon of hope, and *real change* (in fact, we'd love to have you pop in to see for yourself what we're all about). Our goal is to bring homeless residents back to being productive members of our community.

The reason I'm writing you today is because we need your help. Our mission here at CCH/FP is to enable homeless and formerly homeless adults in upper Northwest Washington to rebuild their lives with the involvement of the community.

You see, most people *want* to help the homeless. They just don't know *how*. Sure, if enough kind folks throw a dollar or spare change their way, the "David's" on the street might get by. But we're not about helping the homeless just "get by".

Our goal at CCH/FP is to bring about long-term, permanent change. And we've been successful. Since our beginnings in 1991, we've helped thousands of individuals in rebuilding their lives. CCH/FP has been among the finalists for "Best Managed Non-Profit" in the D.C. area.

In 2008 alone, people like you helped us serve over 532 homeless people. Here's what that meant to our homeless friends:

- **Provided 717 health care consultations for 224 people,**
- **Guided 255 people through the paperwork maze of getting disability and other benefits,**
- **Placed 58 people into transitional housing,**
- **Obtained 307 psychiatric consultations for 168 people,**
- **Provided supportive services to 28 scattered sites, and**
- **Secured permanent housing with supportive services to 41 people.**

How are we able to do this? Well, we have over xxx volunteers who give time each week. We have a small, efficient staff of hard-working employees. And a network of local businesses, churches and shelters who partner with us.

But we couldn't do it without the generosity of people like you.

One of CCH/FP's beneficiaries said it best: "I know that in the time that I've been helped, I've reached out and helped others...it's kind of contagious."

Yes, giving certainly can be contagious. And when you "pay it forward" to CCH/FP, know that you're giving new life...hope...a future to someone who's given up on life itself.

Let me share one more story with you. CCH/FP's outreach worker found Ella, a shy, petite woman, outside a Metro station. She had come from California, but had no bags, and no family ties. She also had medical issues and depression, which were going untreated. After a month of contact with us on the street, she finally agreed to let us help.

We were able to get her treated by a doctor immediately. We also applied for SSI disability benefits for her, and secured temporary housing until her own income and permanent housing were in place. When asked about her goals for the future, she simply said, "To help everyone I can".

The homeless aren't just downtown DC. We're making huge strides, but too many are homeless here in Northwest Washington. Many are frail, many are women, and many are elderly. Some have alcohol or drug addictions. Almost 70% have a serious mental illness. And **CCH/FP is the only resource in Ward 3 offering mental health services for the homeless.**

I know you probably get asked to support a lot of worthwhile causes. The beauty of helping CCH/FP is that instead of sending a check half-way around the globe, you get to make a difference right here in your little corner of the world. Helping folks in *your* neighborhood, *your* community.

Will you partner with us in helping a homeless neighbor right here in Washington? Please send your tax-deductible gift of \$35 or more today. If you can't send that much right now, send a smaller amount. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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Jean Michel Giraud
Executive Director, CCH/FP

P.S. I promise you that every gift makes a difference, and it's an amazing feeling to help a David or an Ella. I know--I see it every day. Please send your tax-deductible gift today. Thank you.